(d) whether Godhra fire is in some way related to these mysterious fires in bogies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

ASSOCHAM'S suggestions for steel policy

606. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested to the Government to forge a steel policy which balances the need for making available adequate amounts of the steel as it is a basic raw-material for infrastructure development;

(b) whether, in a note the chamber has suggested that the policy direction on steel should be taken in a manner that would be compatible with the World Trade Organisation and other plurilateral policies;

(c) if so, whether Government have considered its views; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry (ASSOCHAM) had submitted a note in July, 2002 on a 5-point programme for revival of the steel industry. The issues raised by ASSOCHAM generally referred to the need for providing raw material at competitive prices, reduction in excise duty and other State taxes, reliable supply of power at reasonable rates, need to upgrade transport infrastructure and eduction in interest rates for financing capital projects.

(c) and (d) The issues related to several Departments of Central Government as well as State Governments. These suggestions were brought to the notice of the Ministries of Surface Transport, Finance, Shipping, Power as well as all State Governments to be kept in mind at the time of review of formulation of new policy.